



NEWSLETTER

Fall, 2009

Editor: Geza S. Bodor
Denver, Colorado

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Mitch Scott

Dear ACLPS Members:

It is a real honor to have the opportunity to serve as the 41st President of ACLPS during the academic year 2009 – 10. ACLPS is a remarkable organization that has remained true to its mission of advancement of teaching and scholarship in academic laboratory medicine since its inception in 1966. While our most visible “product” is the annual meeting that spotlights young investigators, other significant educational efforts have occurred outside the meeting during the past decade. It is my hope that I can help continue the outstanding initiatives and efforts of my predecessors, particularly Drs. Alexander and Smith. I also want to thank all the volunteers and committee members for all their hard work and welcome the following new committee members: Executive Council – Chuck Eby, Eric Spitzer and Karen Frank; Membership – Jim Ritchie; Program and Finance – Mike Laposata and Ted Bovill; Nominating and Awards – Jonathan Tait and David Sacks; Publications – Mike Dunne and Michael Hodsdon. Some updates and highlights of recent and current ACLPS activities follow in the rest of this message.

Annual Meetings: We should all congratulate the local hosts, Tony Butch and Kathy Kelly, along with staff and others from UCLA, for the outstanding 2009 Meeting in Redondo Beach. The spectacular ocean side setting was ideal for collegial interactions, scientific presentations and opportunities for the young investigators to have a good time. We had a total of 81 presentations or posters from 27 institutions which is among the highest ever. Looking forward to 2010, Drs. Santoro and Laposata are promising a great meeting in Nashville June 3 – 5 as well as a fabulous venue and opportunities to explore “Lower Broadway”. I look forward to seeing all of you in Nashville. The Abstract Submission Deadline and other information about ACLPS 2010 appear elsewhere in this newsletter. The 2011 Meeting will be held in St. Louis June 9 – 11 so please mark your calendars now!

Investment Policy: One of the recommendations of the Finance Committee and Executive Council was to have a formal investment policy for our funds targeting a range of 40 – 60% in Fixed Income and 40 - 60% in Securities. This policy was

approved at the June 6, 2009 membership meeting in Redondo Beach and I am pleased to announce that these were implemented this fall. In addition, separate accounts have been established for the Benson fund.

Medical School Laboratory Medicine Curriculum: A major highlight this year is the pending publication in AJCP of the ACLPS suggested curriculum for medical students entitled, "Educating Medical Students in Laboratory Medicine: A Proposed Curriculum". Under the leadership of Brian Smith the following members contributed: Maria Aguero-Rosenfeld, John Anastasi, Beverly Baron, Anders Berg, Jay Bock, Sheldon Campbell, Kendall Crookston, Robert Fitzgerald, Mark Fung, Richard Haspel, John Greg Howe, Jeffrey Jhang, Malek Kamoun, Susan Koethe, Matthew D. Krasowski, Marie Landry, Marisa Marques, Henry Rinder, William Roberts, William E. Schreiber, Steven Spitalnik, Christopher Tormey, Paul Wolf, Yan Yun Wu. In addition to these authors I want to also thank all the members who provided comments back in July when it was made available for membership comment. I encourage everyone to take a look at this and consider the curriculum at their own institutions. It has already prompted us to institute some changes in the second year pathology course at Washington University.

AJCP: You should have received a request to complete a survey regarding your usage of and access to AJCP which is the official journal of our society. We are examining whether the Academy can save some of our membership dues that go to AJCP subscriptions. We will keep you posted. Brian Smith and the Publications Committee are also looking into ways to make us more visible to AJCP readers.

Education Committee: This has been an *ad hoc* committee for many years most recently

headed by Henry (Harv) Rinder. At the June 2009 meeting of the membership it officially became a permanent standing committee with the approval of the by-laws change. Dr. Rinder will continue to chair this group that has been invaluable for ACLPS' contribution to the RISE exam. We should all thank the following who have contributed questions for the RISE exam during the last year: Bruce Alexander, John Anastasi, Beverly Baron, Fiona E. Craig, Kendall Crookston, Karen Frank, Jonathan R. Genzen, John G. Howe, J. Stacey Klutts, Veronica Luzzi, Alexander McAdam, Paul D. Mintz, Henry M. Rinder, Eric Spitzer, Christopher A. Tormey, Alan Wu, Xiaotian Zheng. In addition to now chairing the entire RISE committee Dr. Rinder is looking into using the RISE survey function to answer CP training related questions. The education committee is also looking into ways that ACLPS can provide laboratory medicine CME for which there is now a strong demand for maintenance of certification. Considering the accomplishments of the *ad hoc* committee over the last several years I am really looking forward to the future contributions of this committee.

Other: From the PRODS meeting this year Dr. Alexander reported that there is continuing recognition from many residency program directors that there is a need for guidance for CP education. There continues to be a discrepancy between scores from the AP and CP board exams and based on the ACLPS survey of program directors many programs have needs to improve CP training. There may be an opportunity here for ACLPS and possible approaches such as workshops or webinars are being discussed. I believe no other group is better positioned to improve CP training than ACLPS and we are open to ideas in this area.

Many of you have probably seen the new ACLPS website now being hosted at ARUP.

Let us know what you think. I want to thank David Chou and colleagues at University of Washington for all of their work over the years maintaining the website and Tony Killeen for maintaining the network domain name, aclps.org, since its inception over 16 years ago.

Finally, I would like to ask everyone to encourage past young investigators from their institutions to continue ACLPS

membership once they take their first faculty position. We continue to lose many of our associate members once they complete training and a word from their CP mentors may help convince them to become active members. The inclusive, congenial nature of our Academy means that they will soon have an opportunity to get as involved as they would like to.

Mitch Scott

ACLPS MEDICAL STUDENT CURRICULUM PROPOSAL TO BE PUBLISHED IN AJCP

Following the success of the ACLPS Residency Curriculum project, the organization decided to utilize a similar process to develop a proposal for a medical student curriculum. This is especially timely since the recent May 2009 update of the CDC-sponsored report on the Future of Laboratory Medicine noted "Medical education on laboratory testing is inadequate. Despite the integral role of laboratory testing in the practice of medicine, formal teaching of laboratory medicine is a relatively neglected component of the

medical school curriculum. ... Without sufficient knowledge of laboratory tests, health care providers are more prone to inappropriate ordering and mistakes in interpreting test results, which can lead to poor case management, increased costs per patient, and adverse outcomes." We are pleased to say that the ACLPS article has been submitted to AJCP and has now been accepted for publication. It should appear in the journal by the beginning of next year.

Brian R. Smith

MINUTES OF THE 2009 ACLPS ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Redondo Beach, CA

Saturday, June 6, 2009 12:30 – 2:00 PM

**Submitted by Brian Jackson
Secretary, Treasurer**

ACLPS Officers, 2009-2010

President Mitchell G. Scott
St. Louis, MO

President-Elect William L. Roberts
Salt Lake City, UT

Secretary-Treasurer Brian Jackson
(2008-2011) Salt Lake City, UT

Immediate Past President C. Bruce Alexander
Birmingham, AL

Past President Brian R. Smith
New Haven, CT

Executive Council

(Includes officers listed above, Membership Committee Chair, Paul E. Strandjord YI Award Program Director, and the following members at large)

2007-2010

Jonathan L. Miller Chicago, IL
Samuel A. Santoro Nashville, TN

2008-2011

Karen Frank Chicago, IL
Marisa Marques Birmingham, AL

2009-2012

Charles Eby St. Louis, MO
Eric D. Spitzer Stony Brook, NY

**Paul E. Strandjord Young Investigator
Award Program Director (2007-2012)**

Alexander McAdam Boston MA

Committees and Special Assignments

Membership Committee

Chair (2009-2012) Daniel Sabath
Seattle, WA

Secretary-Treasurer Brian Jackson
Salt Lake City, UT

Member-at-Large (2007-2010). Pei Lin
Houston, TX

Member-at-Large (2008-2011). Dennis Kucik
Birmingham, AL

Member-at-Large (2009-2012). Jim Ritchie

Nominating and Awards Committee

Chair C. Bruce Alexander,
(Immediate Past President)
Birmingham, AL

Members:
(2007-2010). Ann M. Gronowski
St. Louis, MO

(2008-2011). Jeffrey Kant
Pittsburgh, PA

(2009-2012). Jonathan Tait
Seattle, WA

(2009-2012). David Sacks
Boston, MA

Program and Finance Committee

Chair, (President-Elect) William L. Roberts
Salt Lake City, UT

2009 Local Host Anthony Butch
Los Angeles, CA

2010 Local Host Samuel A. Santoro
Nashville, TN

2011 Local Host Mitchell G. Scott
St. Louis, MO

Secretary-Treasurer Brian Jackson
Salt Lake City, UT

PES-YIAP Director Alexander McAdam
Boston, MA

Member-at-Large (2009-2010). . . . Edwin Bovill
Burlington, VT

Member-at-Large (2009-2010).. . Mike Laposata
Nashville, TN

Publications Committee

Chair Brian Smith
New Haven, CT

Members:
(2008-2011). Andrew Hoofnagle
Seattle, WA

(2009-2012). Michael Hodsdon
New Haven, CT

(2009-2012). Michael Dunn

ACLPS Newsletter Editor

Geza S. Bodor. Denver, CO

Internet Applications Task Force

Chair. David Chou
Seattle, WA

Members:
. Lynn Bry
Boston, MA

. Curtis A. Parvin
Boston, MA

ACLPS World Wide Web Home Page:
<http://www.aclps.org>

Historians

George Z. Williams (1966-1976)
Tiburon, CA

Ellis S. Benson (1976-1986)
Minneapolis, MN

Edward R. Ashwood (1986-1996)
Salt Lake City, UT

Representatives to Other Organizations

American Board of Pathology
. Edward R. Ashwood
Salt Lake City, UT

Maintenance of Certification Committee
. Peter Jatlow
New Haven, CT

Information Liaison
. David Chou
Seattle, WA

American Society for Clinical Pathology (RISE)
. Henry Rinder
New Haven, CT

Association of Pathology Chairs
. C. Bruce Alexander
Birmingham, AL

Council of Academic Societies
. Steven Spitalnik

	New York, NY	.....	Marisa Marques Birmingham, AL
Intersociety Pathology Council			
.....	Jeffrey A. Kant Pittsburgh, PA	.....	Theresa Nester Seattle, WA
Commission on Accreditation in Clinical Chemistry	Ann M. Gronowski St. Louis, MO	.....	William Roberts Salt Lake City, UT
American Board of Clinical Chemistry		.....	William Schreiber Vancouver, BC
.....	S.M. (Hossein) Sadrzadeh Seattle, WA	.....	Brian Smith New Haven, CT
		.....	Steven Spitalnik New York, NY

Ad Hoc Education Committee

Chair..... Henry Rinder Yan Yun Wu
New Haven, CT New Haven, CT

Members:

- John Anastasi
Chicago, IL
- Beverly Baron
Chicago, IL
- Jay Bock
Stony Brook, NY
- Patricia Charache
Baltimore, MD
- Kendall Crookston
Albuquerque, NM
- Robert Fitzgerald
San Diego, CA
- Mark Fung
Burlington, VT
- Matthew Krasowski
Pittsburgh, PA

Report on ACLPS finances

ACLPS continues to be in sound financial shape. Expenses are carefully controlled to match income. With respect to the annual meeting, which is by far the largest budget line item, registration and sponsorship income more than covered the expenses in each of the last two years. The combined ACLPS accounts, totaling over \$700,000 at this time, are conservatively invested in a combination of treasury bonds and diversified securities under the direction of the Program and Finance Committee. Although the securities took a modest hit during the recent recession, it was relatively mild and the accounts have largely recovered in recent months.

THE RENEWED ACLPS WEBSITE

Members may have noticed an updated look and feel to the ACLPS website (www.aclps.org). The site recently underwent a minor redesign and is now being hosted and managed by ARUP Laboratories. We express appreciation to David Chou and his staff at the University of Washington who previously managed

the site for a number of years. One new feature of the site is the ability to pay dues and submit donations online. We hope to add other services to the web site in the future.

Brian Jackson

FROM THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

The American Journal of Clinical Pathology is the official journal of ACLPS as well as being the official journal of the American Society for Clinical Pathology. Currently, all members of ACLPS receive a hardcopy subscription to the journal. The Committee is exploring the relative advantages and disadvantages of moving some or all of the subscriptions to AJCP to an electronic-only subscription.

As part of that assessment, you have

received an invitation to a brief online survey. Please complete that survey so your voice as a member may be heard. The Committee is also exploring the possibility of establishing a formalized process to add brief, state-of-the-art review articles to the journal and your input on this concept is also solicited as part of the online survey.

Brian R. Smith

HIGHLIGHTS FROM INTERSOCIETY PATHOLOGY COUNCIL MEETING, MARCH 2009

by Jeff Kant

Here is an abbreviated version of the yearly report I provide to ACLPS Leadership around items discussed at the Intersociety Pathology Council which meets annually in conjunction with the USCAP Meeting.

Medical Student education in lab medicine/clinical pathology. Dr. Fred Rodriguez from LSU/New Orleans mentioned they have had a dedicated course in lab medicine/clinical pathology directed at sophomore medical students for

over 30 years!

The College of American Pathologists: continues to advance an ambitious program around the 'transformation' of the specialty and have hired a new Executive

VP (Charles Rousell) with business experience implementing strategic plans and transformational behavior. Initiatives include establishment of an 'Institute' (focused on pathologist education) and a 'Center' (focused on practice standards and guidelines). A key underlying principle of transformation is the promotion of pathologists as physicians, not specialized technicians. As part of the Institute, CAP is establishing certificate programs to recognize specialized competence in areas not currently certified formally by the ABP. The only one relevant now to lab medicine is pharmacogenomics. Programs will be fairly demanding with required thresholds of practice experience, ongoing CME, and a formal exam. Certificates will be time-limited, requiring periodic renewal (circa every 3 years).

American Board of Pathology: has established subcommittees to review the content of AP and CP curricula. This could

potentially have an impact on the question of 'balance' in certification examinations. The requirement for SAMs (Self Assessment Modules, 10 credits/year) is waived through 2009. This applies only to those with time limited certificates (starting 2006). The ABP voluntary recertification program is still available. The pass rate of >80% the first year of criterion-based grading for the CP exam was felt by Dr. Bennett, Exec. VP of ABP, to likely reflect a gifted pool of residents who took 2006 exams. CP Performance declined to the low-mid 70s in 2007 and 2008; this is 10-15% lower than AP pass rates.

Other: The application process for pathology fellowships is acknowledged to be somewhat of a morass. Attempts to 'fix' this via Chairs and/or Program Directors continues. Some feel a Match is the best solution, but others are not enamored.

REPORT ON THE SUCCESS OF THE 2009 ACLPS MEETING

The Annual ACLPS Meeting sponsored by the University of California, Los Angeles that was held earlier this year on June 4 – 6, 2009 at Redondo Beach, CA, was a tremendous success. There were 155 attendees and a total of 123 paid registrations. A total of 55 oral presentations and 25 poster presentations were given by young investigators. The Nanotechnology Tutorial on Thursday was well-attended and the entire program received a overall average score of 4.56 (scale of 1 – 5). Although it was a tough

year for fund raising, we were able to raise \$43,500 in sponsorship money from 13 different sponsors. The financials after the meeting revealed a surplus of \$10,946.19 that was donated to ACLPS. We look forward to seeing you at the 2010 annual meeting in Memphis, TN.

Anthony Butch
Kathleen Kelly
2009 Local Hosts

INVITATION TO ATTEND THE 2010 ACLPS ANNUAL MEETING

On behalf of Michael Laposata, my co-host, and our local organizing committee I invite you to make your plans to join us in Nashville June 3-5, 2010 for the annual ACLPS meeting. The primary meeting venue will be the Downtown Nashville Hilton, an all suites hotel with wonderful conference facilities. The hotel is located in the heart of downtown Nashville just a block away from the entertainment district of lower Broadway with its clubs, honky-tonks (including the famous Tootsie's Orchid Lounge), the Wildhorse Saloon, the Ryman Auditorium (the historic "mother church of country music), the Schermerhorn Symphony Center, the Sommet Center, etc. not too mention the Country Music Hall of Fame which will serve as the site for our Friday evening awards banquet.

Although all of the details have yet to be finalized, this meeting promises to be a fast-paced and lively occasion that blends the latest advances in science, clinical practice and education in laboratory medicine. We will also provide ample time for fellowship and networking, both during the meeting and at our social events. The guiding theme for the entire meeting will be "Innovation in Laboratory Medicine".

The meeting will begin on Thursday afternoon with a workshop focused on Innovation in Education in Laboratory Medicine. Following several introductory presentations that set the framework for issues in resident and fellow education from various perspectives, we will turn our attention to the "best practices" put into place by our colleagues from around the country. We should all be able learn from these lively presentations and take or

adapt some of these best practices into those of our own programs.

The Thursday evening opening reception will take place in the Hilton Hotel and afford us all time to greet old friends and make new ones. Then it is probably time to explore lower Broadway, enjoy time with friends and Nashville local culture. Believe me, even on a Thursday evening, Nashville is alive and vibrant.

As is traditional, Friday morning will be devoted to simultaneous sessions featuring oral presentations by our young investigators. This is always a highpoint of the meeting that allows meeting our trainees and hearing about their work.

After lunch in the Garden Room just off the lobby of the hotel, we will begin the afternoon session with the Cotlove Lecture. The honoree (I can't yet disclose his/her identity) will deliver a thoroughly engaging presentation that will set stage for the afternoon session focusing on scientific innovation in laboratory medicine. The afternoon session will also include the Ellis Benson Lecture given by one of our highly accomplished, but more junior members. The afternoon will also feature an expanded poster session with time for discussion and networking. The session will conclude with a series brief provocative and challenging presentations by expert panelists followed by a lively group discussion of the role, adaptations and challenges, indeed the very future of laboratory medicine in the emerging diagnostic landscape. I am betting this discussion will not end with the conclusion of this session, but will continue through the meeting.

Friday evening we will reassemble at the Country Music Hall of Fame, widely recognized as one of the premier reception locations in the south. The Hall of Fame is located just a short walk across a beautifully landscaped open plaza from our headquarters hotel. We plan to have the museum, which is filled with amazing interactive exhibits open for the private enjoyment of ACLPS. We will enjoy refreshments and fellowship outdoors on the deck and then move to the rotunda for the awards dinner featuring presentation of the Young Investigator Awards and the Gerald Evans Award for distinguished service to ACLPS.

We have moved the ACLPS annual business meeting to coincide with breakfast on Saturday morning, rather than the traditional lunch. We invite all of the trainees and young investigators attending the conference to join the membership for the business meeting.

The meeting will conclude with a lively Saturday morning session focused on innovation in the practice of laboratory medicine. Box lunches will be provided at the end of the session. You are welcome, indeed encouraged, to linger and enjoy lunch with colleagues, but this should facilitate the departure of those with flights to catch.

We invite you to stay over Saturday night if you wish and enjoy early June in Nashville and middle Tennessee.

Information on meeting and hotel registration will be available on the website this winter and by separate electronic mailings to the membership.

Make your plans. See you in Nashville,

Sam Santoro

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS, 2010 ACLPS MEETING

Alex McAdam

Abstracts can now be submitted for the 2010 ACLPS Meeting in Nashville. Application materials have been posted at www.aclps.org since December 7, 2009. The deadline for abstract submission is Friday, February 19, 2010.

The Paul E. Strandjord Young Investigator Award will be given to the trainees who submit the highest-scoring abstracts. Residents, fellows, and students in a doctoral program in health sciences, participating in research with a member of

ACLPS or sponsored by an ACLPS member are eligible. Students in programs leading to non-doctoral degrees conducting research with an ACLPS member may be considered upon written request from the ACLPS sponsor to Dr. McAdam.

For information about the abstracts program or Paul E. Strandjord Young Investigator Awards contact Dr. Alex McAdam at alexander.mcadam@childrens.harvard.edu